

In 2018, Moldova made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The government passed Government Decree No. 378 to grant financial allowances to children left without parental care until they reach the age of 18. Labor inspectors also attended regional anti-trafficking workshops, including a policy planning workshop organized by the Permanent Secretariat for the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. However, despite new initiatives to address child labor, Moldova is receiving an assessment of minimal advancement because of a regression in law and practice that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labor. In August 2018, the government amended Law No. 131 through Law No. 179, indicating that the State Labor Inspectorate does not have legal authority to conduct on-site inspections without at least first requesting and then receiving insufficient documentation from the business being inspected or conducting a risk assessment that finds reasonable indicators of a possible violation. The amendments to Law No. 131 allow announced on-site inspections only if the State Labor Inspectorate gives the business owner five day's notice that the inspection will be conducted within ten business days. Unannounced inspections, even those based on a complaint, including at the request of law enforcement or other state bodies, are permitted only based on a risk assessment that indicates an immediate threat to the environment, life, health, or property. These stringent new measures have been interpreted by the State Labor Inspectorate as stripping the body of its ability to conduct unannounced on-site inspections. Other stakeholders maintain that unannounced inspections are still possible when required conditions are met. In addition, when any inspection is conducted, the labor inspector must now only focus on the alleged violation outlined in the complaint; if other violations, such as child labor, are uncovered, they cannot be addressed. Children in Moldova engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also engage in child labor in agriculture. Moldova lacks a sufficient number of labor inspectors to provide sufficient coverage of the workforce. In addition, training is needed for new investigators and, due to government restructuring, no occupational health and safety inspections, including of hazardous child labor, were conducted during the reporting period.



### **I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR**

Children in Moldova engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. Children also engage in child labor in agriculture. (I-5) Table I provides key indicators on children's work and education in Moldova.

# Moldova

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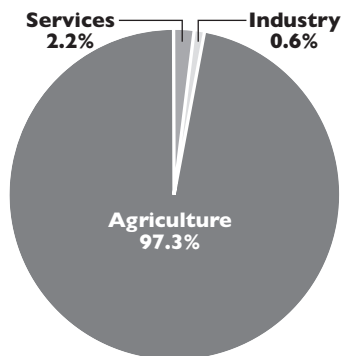
**Table 1. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education**

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	24.3 (102,105)
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	92.1
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	29.0
Primary Completion Rate (%)		89.9

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2017, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2019. (10)

Source for all other data: International Labor Organization’s analysis of statistics from Labour Force Survey-Child Labour Survey, 2009. (11)

**Figure 1. Working Children by Sector, Ages 5-14**



Based on a review of available information, Table 2 provides an overview of children’s work by sector and activity.

**Table 2. Overview of Children’s Work by Sector and Activity**

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Agriculture,† including growing crops and raising farm animals (2,4,12-16)
	Forestry, including transporting heavy loads (2,4)
	Fishing, including feeding fish (2,4)
Industry	Construction,† including carrying heavy loads and welding† (2,4,9,12,17)
	Working in the garment sector (2,4)
	Baking,† including confectionary and food preservation (2,4)
Services	Street work, including begging (1,2,5,18,19)
	Domestic work (2,4,18)
	Working in wholesale, retail, restaurants, and transportation (2,4,13,16,17)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation and forced begging, each sometimes as a result of human trafficking (2-5,8,20)

† Determined by national law or regulation as hazardous and, as such, relevant to Article 3(d) of ILO C. 182.

‡ Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor *per se* under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182.

Lack of information limits an assessment of the types of work that children perform and the sectors in which they work, including for the secessionist region of Transnistria. (2,4,20) The Transnistrian region is not under the control of Moldovan central authorities, who are prevented from carrying out inspections and law enforcement there. (21)

Both boys and girls are recruited for commercial sexual exploitation. (1,3-5,22) Traffickers recruit children as young as age 10 for prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. (1) Moldova is also a destination for child sex tourism. (3,5,13,20,22)

Child trafficking, particularly of children suffering from familial neglect, continues to be a concern in Moldova and Transnistria. (2,5,8,14,23,24,25) The number of children left behind by migrant parents is increasing in both regions. These children are particularly vulnerable to child labor and human trafficking, especially those in orphanages or boarding schools. (2,5,8,12,18,23,26,25) Vulnerable children from Transnistria are at an increased risk of being trafficked through Ukraine’s Odessa region. (27,28) Victims from the Turkic-speaking autonomous territorial region of Gagauzia in Moldova were also likely to be trafficked to Turkey for commercial sexual exploitation. (5)




Although the Education Code provides for free and compulsory education until age 18, sometimes parents are asked to pay informal fees for supplies and gifts to teachers. (12,19,29) Occasional discrimination by some school officials and other non-Roma students may create barriers to access education. Roma children are particularly vulnerable to school dropout. (2,18,25,31)

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**II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD LABOR**

Moldova has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

**Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor**

Convention	Ratification
 ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	✓
ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
 UN CRC	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
 Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

The government's laws and regulations are in line with relevant international standards (Table 4).

**Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor**

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	16	Article 46 of the Labor Code (32)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 255 of the Labor Code; Article 3 of the Collective Convention on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (32,33)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Government Decision No. 541; Articles 2 and 3 of the Collective Convention on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor; Articles 103, 105, and 255–256 of the Labor Code (32-34)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Article 44 of the Constitution; Article 168(b) of the Criminal Code; Article 7 of the Labor Code; Collective Convention on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (32,33,35,36)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Articles 2 and 25–29 of the Law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; Collective Convention on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (33,37)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Articles 175, 206, and 208 of the Criminal Code; Article 6 of the Law on the Rights of the Child; Collective Convention on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor; Law No. 207 (33,36,38,39)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 208 of the Criminal Code; Collective Convention on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (33,36)
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Article 12 of Law No. 162-XVI on the Status of Servicemen (40)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes		Article 28 of Law No. 1245-XV on the Preparation of Citizens for Homeland Defense (41)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	Yes		Article 26 of the Law on the Rights of the Child; Article 206(d) of the Criminal Code (36,38)
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	18	Article 13 and 152 of the Education Code of 2014 (42)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 35 of the Constitution; Article 9 of the Education Code of 2014 (35,42)

As the minimum age for work is lower than the compulsory education age, children may be encouraged to leave school before the completion of compulsory education.

### III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON CHILD LABOR

The government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor (Table 5). However, gaps exist within the authority of the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Social Protection that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labor laws.

**Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement**

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Health, Labor, and Social Protection's State Labor Inspectorate (SLI)	Enforces child labor laws. (2,4) Manages the National Referral System to Protect and Assist Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (NRS), which has been implemented in all of Moldova's regions; each regional coordinator works directly with law enforcement, NGOs, and schools, and leads victim rehabilitation efforts. (2,8) Builds the capacity of multidisciplinary teams at the local level, which includes community social assistants, police officers, and NGO workers to improve victim identification and referral for crisis intervention and rehabilitation. (48) Through the National Coordination Unit and Child Labor Monitoring Unit (CLMU), coordinates activities related to the protection of victims and those vulnerable to human trafficking. In 2018, the CLMU had one inspector. (28)
Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CCTIP)	Leads criminal investigations and arrests perpetrators, including for the trafficking of children for both labor and sexual exploitation. (2) Subdivision of the Ministry of the Interior with criminal investigators. (4,12) Works with the Border Police Inspectorate, National Corruption Center, Customs Service, and the Security and Intelligence Service (SIS). (2) SIS enforces criminal laws against child trafficking and sexual exploitation through cooperation and information exchange with the Border Police, the National Corruption Center, and the Customs Service. (2,12,49)
Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) for Organized Crime and Special Cases (PCCOCS) and Anti-Trafficking Bureau	Monitor and analyze trafficking in persons cases in the Anti-trafficking Bureau within the PGO. (5) Include an investigative and prosecution unit within the national-level Specialized Prosecution Office for Organized Crime and Special Cases (PCCOCS). (1) In 2018, PCCOCS employed 10 prosecutors to work on human trafficking during the investigative stages, and in 2019 nine special judges were nominated to work on human trafficking cases. (5) A specialized unit within the Anti-trafficking Bureau focuses on child pornography.
People's Advocate (Ombudsman)	Specializes in child protection issues, including child labor, and defends children's constitutional rights. Public authorities, officials, and institutions are required to cooperate with the Ombudsman. (12)
Ministry of Justice (MOJ)	Enforces criminal laws against child trafficking and sexual exploitation. (2,4,49) Drafts, consults, and proposes all processes related to criminal legislation for the government's approval before they enter into force. (50)

Due to government restructuring in 2017-2018, the authority to enforce occupational safety and health (OSH) regulations was removed from the mandate of the State Labor Inspection (SLI) and given to other agencies, such as the National Public Health Agency, National Food Safety Agency, and Technical Surveillance Agency. (2,4,51,52) The move affected the ability to conduct OSH inspections and adequately detect hazardous child labor. (53-55) In addition, the responsibilities of the Child Labor Monitoring Unit (CLMU) within the SLI structure have not been clearly defined, and its role has changed under Law No. 131 from coordinating child labor monitoring with the broader SLI to merely requesting a report of child labor from other agencies when child labor is found. (28) This has affected the SLI's enforcement capabilities in terms of detecting child labor. (53)

The Prosecutor General's Office Anti-trafficking Bureau, which monitors human trafficking investigations, including child trafficking, recently expanded its mandate to investigate online and digital child sexual exploitation cases. (21)

#### **Labor Law Enforcement**

In 2018, labor law enforcement agencies in Moldova took actions to combat child labor (Table 6). However, gaps exist within the authority of the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Social Protection that may hinder adequate labor law enforcement, including the lack of unannounced inspections in sectors in which child labor is known to occur.

**Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor**

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Labor Inspectorate Funding	\$850,000 (4)	\$690,000 (2)
Number of Labor Inspectors	87 (4)	45 (2)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (4)	Yes (21)
Initial Training for New Labor Inspectors	Yes (4)	Yes (2)

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**Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor (Cont.)**

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	Yes (4)	Yes (21)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (56)	Yes (2)
Number of Labor Inspections Conducted	3,295 <sup>†</sup> (4)	2,191 <sup>‡</sup> (2)
Number Conducted at Worksite	3,295 <sup>†</sup> (4)	2,006 <sup>‡</sup> (2)
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	15 <sup>†</sup> (4)	15 (2)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	11 <sup>†</sup> (4)	3 (2)
Number of Child Labor Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	2 <sup>†</sup> (4)	4 (21)
Routine Inspections Conducted	Yes (4)	Yes (2)
Routine Inspections Targeted	No (4,51)	Yes (2)
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (4)	Yes (2)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Yes (4)	No (2)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Yes (4)	Yes (2)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (4)	Yes (2)

<sup>†</sup> Data are from January 1, 2017 to November 30, 2017.

<sup>‡</sup> Data are from January 2018 to November 2018.

The SLI inspects labor relations of enterprises, institutions, and organizations, regardless of their type or legal form. (2,57) Law No. 140 and Law No. 131 outline the primary responsibilities of the SLI, including how and when labor inspections occur. (58-60) Although the SLI can inspect private farms, it cannot inspect private homes and does not have jurisdiction to inspect enterprises in Transnistria. (2,53)

The number of labor inspectors is likely insufficient for the size of Moldova's workforce, which includes over 1,295 million workers. (62) According to the ILO's technical advice of a ratio approaching 1 inspector for every 20,000 workers in transition economies, Moldova would employ roughly 65 labor inspectors. (62,63) The SLI has also reported that the number of labor inspectors is insufficient in order to adequately conduct child labor inspections. (2) In addition, Decree 788, which was amended during the reporting period, placed a limit on the total number of inspectors that can be hired to a total of 45 labor inspectors covering 10 territories. (21,53,54,64) As a result the total number of labor inspectors decreased by 42 from the previous year. (2,57)

As a result of August 2018 amendments to Law No. 131 and government restructuring in 2017–2018, the SLI no longer has authority to investigate workplace accidents and enforce penalties for OSH violations, including of hazardous working conditions for children. (58,61) There are 13 inspectors employed by 10 non-SLI agencies who can conduct discretionary OSH inspections only in specific areas outlined in the law. (2) In 2018, while three new labor inspectors received trainings on OSH, no OSH inspections, including of hazardous child labor, were conducted by these 10 agencies due to the lack of knowledge and training. (53,54) Therefore, the SLI was mandated to continue to inspect severe workplace injuries until June 2019, when all OSH-related inspections will be permanently transferred to the 10 other non-SLI agencies. (53,54,61)

Both government and NGO sources reported that the child labor violations identified by the government during the reporting period did not reflect the magnitude of the child labor problem in Moldova due to legal changes that impacted the government's ability to conduct announced and unannounced inspections. (28,53,54,64) In 2018, the government passed Law No. 179, which amends Law No. 131 to mandate that all inspections be done by desk inspections first, rather than worksite inspections. (86) According to these amendments, the SLI also does not have any legal authority to conduct an on-site inspection without at least first requesting and then receiving insufficient documentation from the business being inspected or conducting a risk assessment that finds reasonable indicators of a possible violation. (58,86) The amendments to Law No. 131 allow announced on-site inspections only if the SLI gives the business owner a five day notice that the inspection will be conducted within ten business days. (58,86) Unannounced inspections, even those based on a complaint, including at the request of law enforcement or other state bodies, are permitted only based on a risk assessment that indicates an immediate threat to the environment, life, health, or property. (86) The introduction of these strict measures

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has limited the SLI’s ability to conduct unannounced on-site inspections; no unannounced inspections were conducted in 2018. These measures affected the SLI’s ability to conduct child labor inspections during the year. (2,58,65,66)

When an inspection is being conducted, the labor inspector can only focus on the alleged violation outlined in the complaint, even if other violations, such as child labor, are observed. (53,61)

In 2018, 15 minors were detected and removed from child labor by labor inspectors and police officers. In addition, labor inspectors attended regional workshops on how to combat human trafficking, including a policy planning workshop organized by the Permanent Secretariat for National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons (NCCTIP) and OSCE. (2)

### Criminal Law Enforcement

In 2018, criminal law enforcement agencies in Moldova took actions to combat child labor (Table 7). However, gaps exist within the operations of the criminal enforcement agencies that may hinder adequate criminal law enforcement, including insufficient training for new criminal investigators.

**Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor**

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2017	2018
Initial Training for New Criminal Investigators	N/A (4)	No (2)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Yes (4)	Yes (2)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (4)	Yes (2)
Number of Investigations	34† (4)	32‡ (2)
Number of Violations Found	34† (4)	53‡ (2)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	34† (4)	32‡ (2)
Number of Convictions	20 (4)	24 (2)
Imposed Penalties for Violations Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	Unknown	4 (21)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (4)	Yes (2)

† Data are from January 1, 2017 to December 1, 2017.

‡ Data are from January 2018 to November 2018.

During the first 11 months of 2018, the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CCTIP) identified 53 children as victims of human trafficking, of which 34 were engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, 17 were victims of labor trafficking, and 2 were trafficked for begging. In 2018, more than 900 law enforcement officials and prosecutors in CCTIP received more than 14 trainings related to laws, sexual assault crimes, and the use of digital information in investigating and prosecuting cybercrimes. (2,5) The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) also provided training on human trafficking and institutionalized its own cybercrime trainings. The number of trainings in 2018 was considered sufficient in strengthening law enforcement capacity. (2)

In Moldova in recent years, there has been an increase in child online sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. In 2018, the government identified 20 cases in which human trafficking victims were recruited via the Internet. During 2013–2018, the Prosecutor General’s Office opened 185 cases of online child sexual exploitation, including child pornography. (21) In 2017–2018, of these cases 78 child trafficking cases involved child online sexual exploitation. The National Institute of Justice, which trains prosecutors and judges, has institutionalized a 1-day training module on “Identification, investigation and trial of crimes against children with the means of Informational Communication Technologies (ICTs).” (21)

In 2017, CCTIP arrested a boarding school director who trafficked children for sexual and labor exploitation. In September 2018, the court sentenced him and an accomplice to 17 years and six months in prison and forced him to pay damages incurred to the children. (2,5,12,67) The court ordered both to pay a minor victim \$47,080. In total, 23 people were sentenced to prison related to commercial sexual exploitation of minors during the reporting period. (2)

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Authorities do not possess sufficient ability to identify potential victims. (5) Prosecutors, members of the judiciary, and law enforcement continue to be implicated and/or administratively punished for corrupt practices related to human trafficking. (5) Legislation providing special interview services for child victims of trafficking is not uniformly applied, causing re-traumatization. (5)

Online recruitment, solicitation of sexually explicit content, and online threats are inconsistently regarded as child trafficking or sexual harassment, which is considered to be a less serious crime. (2) In addition, law enforcement failed to use special investigation measures to investigate child pornography, which investigators fail to classify as a serious crime. (2)

Sources have reported that newly hired staff at CCTIP lack knowledge on human trafficking and how ICT is used to facilitate human trafficking crimes. (5)

**IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON CHILD LABOR**

The government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor (Table 8). However, gaps exist that hinder adequate coordination of efforts to address child labor, including coordination efforts of the National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Child labor.

**Table 8. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor**

<b>Coordinating Body</b>	<b>Role &amp; Description</b>
National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Child Labor (NSC)	Coordinates work on child labor issues at the national level among representatives from workers' organizations, NGOs, academia, and government. (4,68,69)
National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons (NCCTIP)	Coordinates efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking and child sexual exploitation. Members include the SLI, SIS, Agency for Public Services, and other government departments. (2,4,12,27) Drafts legislation related to human trafficking, participates in anti-trafficking campaigns, and develops national action plans. (8) Met three times in 2018 to assess progress on human trafficking. (5)
National Council for the Protection of Child Rights	Coordinates national efforts to combat child exploitation and improve access to education. (12) Includes the Deputy Minister of Health, Labor, and Social Protection, and representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Education, Interior, Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and others. (70) Has a working group to discuss existing gaps in the current birth registration process and develop recommendations. (70,71) Met twice in 2018. (28)

The government passed Government Decree No. 143, which includes strategies to improve coordination on child welfare among education, healthcare, and social protection professionals. (28,46)

The National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Child Labor did not meet in 2018. (28)

During the reporting period, the structure of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons (NCCTIP) was merged with the Permanent Anti-trafficking Secretariat, the Secretariat of the National Child Protection Council, and the Secretariat for the National Commission for Collective Consultation and Bargaining. (2,72) This change may affect the ability of the government to counter human trafficking and assist victims because the number and authority of human trafficking specialists were reduced. (5,28) In addition, a source reported that the budget and resources were insufficient for NCCTIP. (5)

**V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON CHILD LABOR**

The government has established policies that are consistent with relevant international standards on child labor (Table 9).

**Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor**

Policy	Description
Child Protection Strategy (2014–2020)	Includes the goals of preventing and combating violence, neglect, and the exploitation of children. (73,74) In 2018, Government Decision No. 143 was passed, which outlines how employees in primary healthcare and kindergarten teachers can intervene in child situations of serious concern preventing risks related to child welfare. In addition, community social assistants were trained on child rights protection, and social support services in the sum of \$2.5 million were allocated to support families with children. (28,46,55)
Action Plan for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2018–2020)†	Outlines how law enforcement agencies work to combat human trafficking, provides support to victims of human trafficking, develops the skills of professionals, and aims to create standards for the operation of victim witness rooms for children, among other tasks. (5,75) Plan will be carried out by the Permanent Secretariat Directorate of NCCTIP. (5) Launched in 2018 and includes an accompanying National Strategy for 2018–2023. (5,75)
Moldova Strategy Country Note Program Priorities (2018–2022)†	Focuses on the realization of all children’s rights, including education and health, especially for children from ethnic minorities, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, and children left behind as a result of migration. (76) Launched in 2018. (55)
Moldova-EU Association Agenda (2017–2019)	Protects and promotes children’s rights. (55,69) In 2018, a draft law was written to amend current legislation on legal representation of children’s rights and interests, and custody and legal responsibility for childcare, including children whose parents have gone abroad. (55)
Moldova Action Program (2016–2018)	Promoted the rights and protection of children, including preventing and combating violence, neglect, and exploitation. (77) In 2018, in partnership with the Center for Child Abuse Prevention, the government began developing a set of indicators for assistance and referral of child victims or potential child victims of violence. (55)
Action Plan to Support the Roma People (2016–2020)	Aims to promote social inclusion of Roma. Includes the goals of education, social protection, and combating discrimination. (78,79) Funded by the government, private partnerships, and the EU. In 2018, provided access to social services and facilitated the provision of Roma mediators. (55)
Action Plan on the Promotion of Internet Safety for Children and Teenagers (2017–2020)	Encourages a safer digital environment for children and teenagers by reducing illegal content on the Internet and educating children about its dangers. (80) Yearly reports on implementing the Action Plan are to be submitted to the government. (80) Active in 2018 by creating an app dedicated to online safety for children. (55,81)

† Policy was approved during the reporting period.

## VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2018, the government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor (Table 10). However, gaps exist in these social programs, including the adequacy of programs to address the full scope of the problem.

**Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor**

Program	Description
Decent Work Country Program (2016–2020)	ILO program that aims to gather statistics on the prevalence of child labor; build the capacity of the labor inspectorate, and combat labor exploitation in the construction and agriculture sectors. (83)
50 Inspired Actions (2019–2030)*	UNICEF-implemented project that aims to end violence against children through regulations, government policies, reporting mechanisms, and awareness raising. (2,82)
Center for Protection and Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking	Child victims of human trafficking are offered legal and social support, accommodation, psychological assistance, and family reunification services. (4) Active in 2018. (28)
Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking†	Government-funded shelters for children from Moldova and Transnistria. (27) Offer accommodations, rehabilitation, and reintegration services. (84) The Chisinau shelter provided services to 19 children in 2018. (5)
Child Helpline (2014–2018)	Implemented by La Strada. (4) Provided psychological counseling and information to parents and children experiencing violence, neglect, or exploitation. Assisted 3,532 children and received 5,441 calls in 2018. (2)
Hotlines†	One human trafficking hotline is managed by the MHLSP and refers cases within the National Referral System. (5) The NGO National Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse also manages a child helpline, which received 5,853 calls in 2018. In addition, the General Prosecutor’s Office managed the Anti-Trafficking Green Line Telephone. (5) Moreover, La Strada managed the national hotline for women and children, which received 3,096 calls in 2018. (5)



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**Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor (Cont.)**

Program	Description
Social Aid Program and Social Support for Families with Children†	In the case of the Social Aid Program, implemented by the district departments of social assistance and family protection and has provided aid for low-income families since 2008. (2,85) In 2018, allocated \$12 million for assistance during the winter. (2) Regarding the Social Support Service for Families with Children, has operated since 2013 and expanded in 2018 to cover the entire country with the government allocating \$2.5 million for families. (2)

\* Program was launched during the reporting period.

† Program is funded by the Government of Moldova.

‡ The government had other social programs that may have included the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor. (2,5)

In 2018, the government passed Government Decree No. 378 to grant daily allowances to children left without parental care until the age of 18. (43,44) During the reporting period, the government allocated \$600,000 for these allowances to 2,600 children. (24,28,45)

Existing social programs do not meet the current level of need, particularly for child victims of trafficking requiring long-term care and children working in agriculture. (5)

## VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor in Moldova (Table 11).

**Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Raise the minimum age for work to the age up to which education is compulsory.	2018
Enforcement	Ensure that labor inspectors can conduct on-site and unannounced inspections.	2018
	Increase the number of labor inspectors and funding for the State Labor Inspectorate to ensure that it provides inspectors with the financial resources necessary to inspect child labor.	2012 – 2018
	Ensure that OSH inspections are carried out in all sectors where child labor is known to occur so that child labor violations are accurately reflected.	2018
	Ensure that investigators, including police officers and CCTIP, receive training on laws and investigative techniques related to the worst forms of child labor, especially for online child pornography and children left behind without parental care.	2016 – 2018
Coordination	Ensure that the National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Child Labor meets and carries out their mandate.	2013 – 2018
	Ensure all coordinating bodies are able to carry out their intended mandates against human trafficking.	2018
Social Programs	Collect and publish data on the extent and nature of child labor to inform policies and programs, including for the secessionist region of Transnistria.	2013 – 2018
	Enhance efforts to eliminate barriers to education by removing informal fees for school supplies.	2018
	Institute targeted support programs that eliminate discrimination and violence against Roma children and promote equal access to education.	2014 – 2018
	Ensure sufficient support for child trafficking victims and children working in agriculture.	2015 – 2018

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